

# Service Area Plan

## Department of Social Services

### Non-TANF Employment Services (45213)

## Service Area Background Information

### Service Area Description

This service area is responsible for the implementation of the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET) which provides workforce services to individuals participating in the Commonwealth's largest nutrition assistance program, the Food Stamp Program. Workforce services provided by the FSET program include job readiness classes, job search assistance, education, training, and community work experience (internships). These services are offered to participants to assist them in attaining unsubsidized employment and attain or move toward self-sufficiency.

### Service Area Alignment to Mission

By helping individuals gain skills and find employment, the FSET program assists low-income families in overcoming poverty and builds strong futures for themselves, their families, and their communities.

### Service Area Statutory Authority

The FSET program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under federal statutory authority by virtue of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended by the 2002 Farm Bill.

### Service Area Customer Base

| Customer(s)                          | Served | Potential |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Local Departments of Social Services | 24     | 120       |
| Low income individuals and families  | 7,106  | 180,000   |

### Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Base

The Food Stamp program has experienced continual caseload growth in the last three years resulting from an increase in the number of Virginians living in poverty and aggressive outreach activities to enroll eligible individuals into the Food Stamp Program. The more individuals on the Food Stamp program, the more participants in FSET. Additionally, a new FSET on-line learning initiative is being implemented in SFY 2005, and many Food Stamp participants may voluntarily participate in this service, further increasing the customer base. The majority of FSET participants are currently required to participate as a condition of their continued receipt of nutrition assistance; however, any Food Stamp participant may volunteer to participate.

### Service Area Partners

Local Departments of Social Services

Local workforce service providers

State agencies

### Service Area Products and Services

- Services that promote sufficiency

# Service Area Plan

## Department of Social Services

### Non-TANF Employment Services (45213)

---

#### Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

As a result of the elimination of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement via the 2002 Farm Bill and limited federal funding, only 24 local department of social services covering 27 localities operate a formal FSET program. Limited funding and stringent regulations around sanctioning and participation make the implementation of the program by local departments of social services difficult given the modest amount of funding available. Additionally, the Farm Bill is up for reauthorization in 2006, and there may be changes to the requirements and the funding related to the FSET program.

#### Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Service

In order to expand program services to more Food Stamp participants, statewide initiatives are being developed with partner agencies that can contribute match to draw down federal funds. New partnership agreements with VCU and the Department of Corrections are being implemented in SFY 2005, and additional partnerships are being explored. Finally, the social services system – state and local departments of social services – will be completing a business process re-engineering initiative in August 2005. This initiative is designed to map the current business processes, recommend radical change to the processes and business model in order to improve client service and efficiency, and posit a roadmap for implementation. The results of this initiative will likely change the manner in which the FSET program implemented. Finally, the FSET program will move away from mandatory participation and toward voluntary participation – to the fullest extent possible – in order to focus scarce resources on

#### Service Area Financial Summary

This Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) program is 100% federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There are also 50/50 matching federal funds available to match state or local funds.

|                           | <u>Fiscal Year 2007</u> |                    | <u>Fiscal Year 2008</u> |                    |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                           | General Fund            | Nongeneral Fund    | General Fund            | Nongeneral Fund    |
| Base Budget               | \$417                   | \$2,064,508        | \$417                   | \$2,064,508        |
| Changes To Base           | \$0                     | \$0                | \$0                     | \$0                |
| <b>SERVICE AREA TOTAL</b> | <b>\$417</b>            | <b>\$2,064,508</b> | <b>\$417</b>            | <b>\$2,064,508</b> |

# Service Area Plan

## Department of Social Services

### Non-TANF Employment Services (45213)

## Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

### Objective 45213.01

#### ***To assist low-income Virginians in obtaining employment by provide high quality workforce services to Food Stamp participants***

The FSET Program offers, as appropriate, the following components: job search assistance, basic employment skills training, education, training, and community work experience (internships) to help Food Stamp participants find employment.

#### **This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:**

- Enhance the independence, well-being and personal responsibility of customers  
(The program is aligned with the VSSS Strategic Plan Goal 1 -- "Enhance the independence, well-being and personal responsibility of citizens" as well as the Council on Virginia's Future long term objectives to "[i]nspire and support Virginians toward healthy lives and strong, resilient families" and "[e]levate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens.")

#### **This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):**

- **Measure 45213.01.01**

##### ***Food Stamp participants receiving workforce services.***

**Measure Type:** Output

**Measure Frequency:** Quarterly

**Measure Baseline:** 7,123

**Measure Target:** Increase the total number of participants 2 percent each year for fiscal years 2007-2008

**Measure Source and Calculation:**

Source -- monthly reports from local departments of social services (LDSS) and partner organizations; Calculation -- total number of individuals participating in a workforce activity

- **Measure 45213.01.02**

##### ***Percent of individuals referred to the FSET program engaged in a workforce service***

**Measure Type:** Output

**Measure Frequency:** Quarterly

**Measure Baseline:** 50%

**Measure Target:** Increase the percentage served by 3% each year for fiscal years 2007-2008

**Measure Source and Calculation:**

Source -- ADAPT (VDSS eligibility system) and monthly reports from LDSS; Calculation -- a percentage based on the number of participants engaged in a workforce activity over the number of participants referred to FSET

- **Measure 45213.01.03**

##### ***Attainment of employment***

**Measure Type:** Outcome

**Measure Frequency:** Quarterly

**Measure Baseline:** New measure, baseline data not available. Baseline will be established using FY06 data.

**Measure Target:** Specific target will be determined once baseline is established.

**Measure Source and Calculation:**

Source -- ADAPT and ES202 wage data from VEC; Measure -- former FSET participants employed 6 months after exiting Food Stamps.

# **Service Area Plan**

## ***Department of Social Services***

### ***Non-TANF Employment Services (45213)***

---

#### **Objective 45213.01 Has the Following Strategies:**

- Expansion through partnering with other state agencies and local workforce providers including One Stop Career Centers.
- Waive as many localities as is possible from the mandatory time limit.
- Provide technical assistance and training.